

**Minutes**  
**Community Voices/Budget Choices Facilitation Committee**  
**July 10, 2008**

The committee met at the Town Room, Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Alison Donta-Venman, Isaac Ben-Ezra, Katherine Vorwerk Feldman, Martha Hanner, Gerald Jolly, Irvin Rhodes, Bob Saul, and Richard Spurgin (via remote telephone connection) were present from the committee, as was Andrew Steinberg, Budget Coordinating Group liaison to the committee and John Musante, liaison from the Town Manager's Office.

Agenda

1. Accept agenda and assign responsibility for July 10 minutes
2. Election of chair or co-chairs
3. Revenue scenarios
4. Subcommittees – designate chairs and additional members
5. Minutes of all previous meetings

Meeting opened with discussion of minute-taking for this meeting. Donta-Venman volunteered and Steinberg suggested that it would then suggest that perhaps the rotating minute-taking be done alphabetically by first name, which would put Saul next in line.

We then proceeded to hear Rhodes' proposal that we revisit the issue of co-chairs versus chair. Some discussion ensued and a general consensus was reached that nominations for chairs and/or co-chairs should be made first. No one stepped forward to volunteer to be a sole chair. Volunteers for co-chair were Rhodes, Spurgin, Hanner, and Saul. Ben-Ezra made a motion that we postpone the election until the next meeting, giving the candidates time to submit personal information regarding their qualifications for chair. Donta-Venman seconded the motion, citing the additional advantage of giving the candidates time to talk among themselves about potentially working together. Rhodes disagreed with this proposal, citing the already-distributed personal information and the fact that some people would not be present at the next meeting. A vote was taken and the motion was rejected with three for, four against, and one abstaining.

Rhodes then formally made a motion that we support the committee to be headed by co-chairs. Vorwerk-Feldman seconded the motion which passed with 7 for and one abstaining.

Steinberg, as acting chair, set the election protocol; committee members were to submit, in writing, two names to Musante who would tally the votes. Spurgin was invited to submit his votes by cell phone. The co-chairs, as elected, are Saul and Hanner who were thanked for their willingness to serve. They assumed duties immediately, with Steinberg passing to them as first order of business the ratification of the minutes from all former meetings.

Saul, with Hanner's approval, moved us immediately to the revenue presentation by Musante [all supporting materials attached]. This detailed presentation elicited a number of clarifying questions, all answered by Musante. The supporting documents were very explanatory and the projection assumptions were clearly laid out. Musante stated that the original spreadsheets

would be made available so that committee members could adjust assumptions if they were interested in playing with the models. There was a general consensus that as we began to hear the expenditure presentations, we would have additional questions about revenue. We would also begin to formulate some questions about possible different revenue assumptions (i.e. increases in fees, an assumption of a cut in state aid, etc) to submit to Musante and his staff for clarification.

At 11:00, Saul suggested continuing for another 10 minutes to give Musante an opportunity to conclude his presentation so we could begin with the library presentation at the next meeting.

The presentation concluded and the next meeting was set for Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 9AM, in the Town Room of Town Hall.

Agenda items #4 and #5 were not addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison Donta-Venman, in rotation.*